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TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 1954

Our room is again bathed in sunlight this morning. Outside an overcoat is required.

More Luceana. Diana Cooper said the other night it was a shock to receive an invitation from "The American Ambassador and Mr. Luce". It was like being invited to dinner by two pederasts.

I went to the Embassy this morning and saw many friends. Durbrow, Stabler, Wilkinson and myself talked about EDC and EPC. They think Quaroni is exercising a bad influence through his intriguing and [redacted] colored reports. Wells is doubtful that Scelba, whom he thinks will receive a vote of confidence, can [redacted] survive the budget debate in June. However, he will betweentimes try to have the EDC Treaty ratified. The procedures, such as consideration by special committees, are so lengthy as to make a decision in the next few months difficult of accomplishment.

I joined E. at the Hotel Excelsior and there read Monday's European Herald Tribune. It reported Senators Wiley, Saltonstal and Ferguson's remarks that the French should not be expected to ratify EDC before the Geneva Conference. They must be mad or, what is more likely, so ignorant of the situation that they are irresponsible. In any case, heigh-ho. It looks as if I would never get this Old Man of the Sea off my back. But we must press ahead and try to close the iron ring of ratifications around France.

I spent an hour or more with Clare Luce at the Villa Taverna. She is a beautiful woman. She described admirably the political scene, as it appeared to her, If the Scelba government comes in it will be by a narrow majority and will be vulnerable to overthrow at any time, ~~especially during the budget debate in~~ June. She considers Nenni cannot be seduced from his collaboration with Toligiatti and as long as Nenni lives the Saragat faction of the Socialist Party will remain a small minority. The best solution, for the present, would be to

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admit the Monarchists to a part in the Government. New elections would be unlikely to create a better atmosphere.

I saw Tish Baldridge for a minute; she looks blooming.

E. and I dined at Ranieri's. Came home and read Leigh-Fermoy's The Violins of Saint Jacques, dedicated to Diana Cooper. She must have an impressive small library of books dedicated to her. It is a well written, imaginative tale, its locus in the West Indies.

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